

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (original) A method of providing a breathing gas comprising the steps of:  
sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface;  
determining if the level of carbon-dioxide is increasing or decreasing;  
if the level is decreasing, determining if the level of carbon-dioxide has crossed a threshold parameter;  
if the carbon-dioxide level has crossed the threshold parameter, increasing the breathing gas pressure provided to the patient breathing interface;  
decreasing the breathing gas pressure provided to the patient breathing interface after a predetermined period of time; and  
the increasing and decreasing of breathing gas pressure maintaining a positive pressure sufficient to sustain open the airway of a patient wearing the breathing interface.
  
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises sensing the carbon-dioxide level using infrared light.
  
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises emitting infrared light within the patient breathing interface.
  
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises detecting infrared light within the patient breathing interface.

5. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of emitting comprising emitting infrared light into a fiber optic cable connected to the patient breathing interface.
6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of detecting infrared light comprising sensing the infrared light in a fiber optic cable coupled to the patient breathing interface.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises sensing the carbon-dioxide level vented from the patient breathing interface.
8. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of initiating a monostable timer if the carbon-dioxide level has crossed the threshold parameter.
9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of decreasing the breathing gas pressure provided to the patient breathing interface after a predetermined period of time comprises decreasing the breathing gas pressure upon expiration of the monostable timer.
10. (original) A method of providing a breathing gas to a patient comprising the steps of:
  - sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface;
  - determining if the sensed level of carbon-dioxide is increasing or decreasing;
  - if the sensed carbon-dioxide level is increasing, determining if the sensed carbon-dioxide level has crossed a first threshold parameter;
  - if the sensed carbon-dioxide level has crossed the first threshold parameter, decreasing the breathing gas pressure provided to the patient breathing interface;
  - if the sensed carbon-dioxide level is decreasing, determining if the sensed carbon-dioxide level has crossed a second threshold parameter;

**Appl. No. 09/967,274**  
**Amdt. Dated October 27, 2004**  
**Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2004**

if the sensed carbon-dioxide level has crossed the second threshold parameter, increasing the breathing gas pressure provided to the patient breathing interface; and

the increasing and decreasing of breathing gas pressure maintaining a positive pressure sufficient to sustain open the airway of a patient wearing the breathing interface.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises sensing the carbon-dioxide level using infrared light.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises emitting infrared light within the patient breathing interface.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises detecting infrared light within the patient breathing interface.

14. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of emitting comprising emitting infrared light into a fiber optic cable coupled to the patient breathing interface.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of detecting infrared light comprising sensing the infrared light in a fiber optic cable coupled to the patient breathing interface

16. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises sensing the carbon-dioxide level vented from the patient breathing interface.

**Appl. No. 09/967,274**  
**Amdt. Dated October 27, 2004**  
**Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2004**

17. (original) A method of providing a breathing gas to a patient comprising the steps of:

sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface;  
determining if the sensed level of carbon-dioxide is increasing or decreasing;  
if the sensed level of carbon-dioxide is decreasing, determining whether the sensed level of carbon-dioxide at or below a threshold level;  
if the sensed level of carbon-dioxide is at or below the threshold level, increasing the pressure of the breathing gas for a fixed period of time;  
decreasing the pressure of the breathing gas upon expiration of the fixed period of time;  
the increasing and decreasing of the pressure of the breathing gas maintaining a positive pressure sufficient to sustain open the airway of the patient.

18. (presently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of increasing the pressure of the breathing gas for a fixed period of time comprises initiating a monostable monstable timer.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level associated with a patient breathing interface comprises the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level with infrared light.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level with infrared light comprises the step of sensing a carbon-dioxide level vented from the patient breathing interface.

21. (original) A method of administering a CPAP therapy comprising the steps of:

monitoring the level of carbon-dioxide vented from a patient breathing interface;

if the level of carbon-dioxide vented is decreasing, determining of the level of carbon-dioxide is at or below a threshold value;

if the level of carbon-dioxide vented is at or below the threshold value, providing a first positive airway pressure to the patient breathing interface for a fixed period of time; and

upon the expiration of the fixed period of time providing a second positive airway pressure to the patient breathing interface.

22 (presently amended) A system for administering a breathing gas to a patient breathing interface comprising;

(a) a blower for providing positive pressure breathing gas;

(b) a controller in circuit communication with the blower;

(c) an infrared light emitter and detector in circuit communication with the controller for detecting the level of carbon-dioxide associated with the patient breathing interface; and

(d) logic for increasing and decreasing the pressure level of the positive pressure breathing gas based on the level of carbon-dioxide detected to maintain open the airway of a patient.

23. (presently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the logic for increasing and decreasing the pressure level of the positive pressure breathing gas based on the level of carbon-dioxide associated with the patient breathing interface comprises logic for comparing the level of carbon-dioxide associated with the patient breathing interface to a threshold parameter.

24. (presently amended) The system of claim 22 further comprising a ~~monostable~~ timer having a variable off time period and predetermined on time period.

**Appl. No. 09/967,274**

**Amdt. Dated October 27, 2004**

**Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2004**

25. (original) The system of claim 22 further comprising a optical fibers coupled to the infrared emitter and detector.

26. (original) The system of claim 22 wherein the infrared emitter and detector are located within a housing accommodating the controller.

27. (original) The system of claim 22 wherein the infrared emitter and detector are located within the patent breathing interface.

28. (original) The system of claim 22 wherein the infrared emitter and detector are located proximate to a vent of the patient breathing interface.

29. (new) A method of providing a breathable gas by monitoring a carbon dioxide level, comprising:

sensing the carbon dioxide level associated with a breathing interface;

determining if the carbon dioxide level is above or below a threshold value;

if the carbon dioxide level is above the threshold value, decreasing the pressure of the breathable gas; and

if the carbon dioxide level is below the threshold value, increasing the pressure of the breathable gas to maintain a positive pressure sufficient to sustain open the airway of a patient wearing the breathing interface.

30. (new) A system for administering breathing gas to a patient breathing interface comprising:

a blower for providing positive pressure breathing gas;

a controller in circuit communication with the blower;

a sensor in circuit communication with the controller for detecting a level of carbon dioxide associated with the patient breathing interface; and

**Appl. No. 09/967,274**  
**Amdt. Dated October 27, 2004**  
**Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2004**

logic for determining if the carbon dioxide level is above a first threshold value or below a second threshold value and for decreasing the pressure of the breathing gas if the carbon dioxide level is above the first threshold value and for increasing the pressure of the breathing gas if the carbon dioxide level is below the second threshold value to maintain open the airway of a patient.

31. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein the first threshold value and the second threshold value are the same value.

32. (new) The system of claim 30 further comprising a timer having a variable off time period and predetermined on time period.

33. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein the sensor comprises an infrared light emitter and detector.

34. (new) The system of claim 33 further comprising optical fibers coupled to the infrared emitter and detector.

35. (new) The system of claim 33 wherein the infrared emitter and detector are located within a housing accommodating the controller.

36. (new) The system of claim 33 wherein the infrared emitter and detector are located within the patient breathing interface.

37. (new) The system of claim 33 wherein the infrared emitter and detector are located proximate to a vent of the patient breathing interface.

38. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of increasing the pressure of the breathing gas for a fixed period of time comprises initiating a timer.

**Appl. No. 09/967,274**  
**Amdt. Dated October 27, 2004**  
**Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2004**

39. (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of initiating a timer if the carbon dioxide level has crossed the threshold parameter.

40. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the step of decreasing the breathing gas pressure provided to the patient breathing interface after a predetermined period of time comprises decreasing the breathing gas pressure upon expiration of the timer.